**Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

March 5, 2001

In reply refer to: KEC-4

**To: People Interested in the Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund a project to recover and preserve summer chinook salmon in Johnson Creek, Idaho. (See attached map.) The project would include additional hatchery facilities at McCall Fish Hatchery in McCall, Idaho and at two sites along Johnson Creek. This letter provides an update about what is being proposed. We would also like to invite you to a meeting where you can learn more.

**Proposal -** The proposed Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement Project is to recover depleted Johnson Creek summer chinook salmon. The project is part of a cooperative effort between the Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Nez Perce Tribe would collect native chinook salmon adults, spawn them, rear their progeny at the McCall Fish Hatchery, and acclimate and release smolts in Johnson Creek.

BPA is considering funding this proposal to mitigate for habitat losses on the mainstem Columbia River because of construction and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

**Background -** Historically, the South Fork of the Salmon River was the single most important summer chinook salmon spawning stream in the Columbia River Basin producing a substantial proportion of all Snake River summer chinook salmon. The numbers of adults returning to spawn has declined to less than 15 percent of historic levels. Johnson Creek, a tributary of the Salmon River, has experienced similar declines. The stock of summer chinook returning to Johnson Creek is at risk of extinction if no action is taken to increase its survival. This population is one of 39 listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

**Public Meeting -** We are developing an environmental analysis of this proposal. As we do, we would like to hear from you. What resources should we analyze? What questions do you have? We have scheduled an open house public meeting to answer your questions and hear your comments:

**Wednesday, March 21, 2001**
**4:00 - 7:00 p.m.**
**McCall - Donnelly High School - Cafeteria**
**401 North Mission Street**
**McCall, Idaho**

We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meeting, but we will have maps, photos and other information available that describe the project. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas, so come anytime between 4 and 7 p.m.

**Other Ways to Comment -** If you cannot come to the meeting, you can still give us your ideas. Call BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519, and leave a message (please include the name of this project); send an e-mail to: *comment@BPA.gov;* or mail comments to Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Officer - KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212. If you comment by March 30, 2001, we'll be able to incorporate your ideas into our environmental analysis.

**Process/Schedule -** A draft of the environmental analysis will be available for review and comment this summer. You will receive notice when it is available. It will also be posted on BPA's web site at *www.efw.bpa.gov*. (Look under "Projects.")

Once we have completed our environmental review, BPA will decide whether to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction would likely begin in Spring 2002.

**For More Information -** If you have any questions about this project, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, or my direct number at (503) 230-5557, or send an e-mail to: *kckirkman@bpa.gov*.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

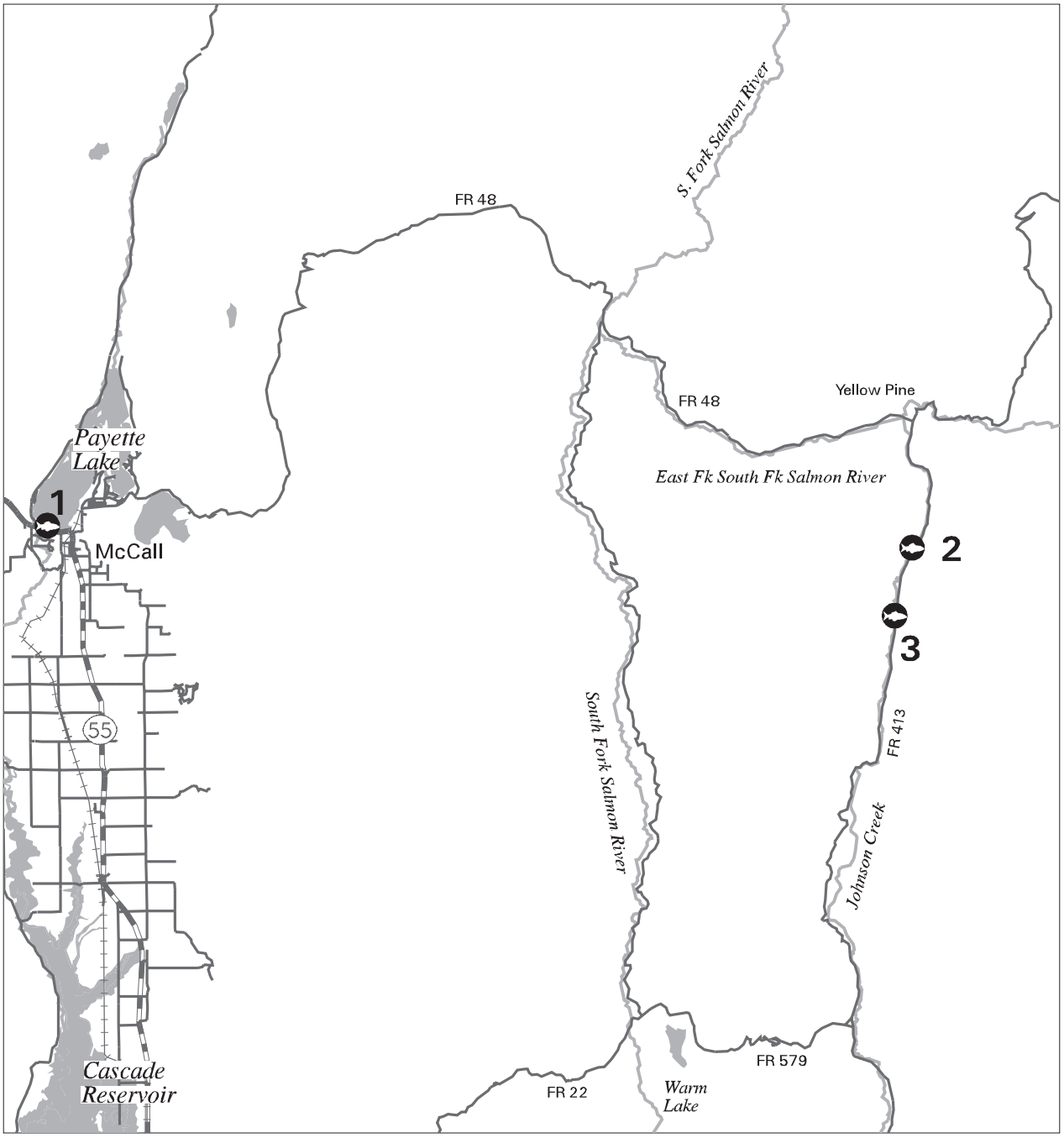
Sincerely,

*/s/ Kenneth Kirkman*

Kenneth Kirkman
Project Manager

Enclosure
Map

# Johnson Creek
# Artificial Propagation Enhancement Project

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BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
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## PROPOSED FACILITY LOCATIONS

**1 - McCall Fish Hatchery**

**2 - Old State Lands**
**Adult Holding and Spawning Site**

**3 - Wapiti Meadows**
**Acclimation Site**